

TRUMP, T. et al.
Serial No. 10/785,399

Atty Dkt: 4147-65
Art Unit: 2646

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (CANCELLED)
2. (CANCELLED)
3. (CANCELLED)
4. (CANCELLED)
5. (CANCELLED)
6. (CANCELLED)
7. (CANCELLED)
8. (CANCELLED)
9. (CANCELLED)
10. (CANCELLED)

11. (New) A method of enhancing audibility of a far-end signal received at a near-end user in a telephone system by applying a gain to said far-end speech signal, the method comprising:

determining whether a ratio between an estimated near-end speech signal level and an estimated near-end background noise level exceeds a first threshold; and

increasing said gain if said ratio exceeds said first threshold and at least one of said estimated near-end speech signal level and said estimated near-end background noise level exceeds a second and third threshold, respectively.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

determining a fourth threshold from an estimated maximum far-end speech signal level;

limiting said gain to values below said fourth threshold.

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13. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
determining a fifth threshold from at least one estimated echo return loss;
limiting said gain to values below said fifth threshold.

14. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
determining a fourth threshold from an estimated maximum far-end speech signal
level;
determining a fifth threshold from at least one estimated echo return loss;
limiting said gain to values below a smallest of said fourth and fifth thresholds.

15. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising low pass filtering said gain
before application to said far-end speech signal.

16. (New) An apparatus for enhancing audibility of a far-end speech signal
received at a near-end user in a telephone system by applying a gain to said far-end
speech signal, including
means for determining whether a ratio between an estimated near-end speech
signal level and an estimated near-end background noise level exceeds a first threshold;
and
means for increasing said gain if said ratio exceeds said first threshold and at least
one of said estimated near-end speech signal level and said estimated near-end
background noise level exceeds a second and third threshold, respectively.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
means for determining a fourth threshold from an estimated maximum far-end
speech signal level,
means limiting said gain to values below said fourth threshold.

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18.(New) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
means for determining a fifth threshold from at least one estimated echo return
loss;
means for limiting said gain to values below said fifth threshold.

19.(New) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
means for determining a fourth threshold from an estimated maximum far-end
speech signal level;
means for determining a fifth threshold fro at least one estimated echo return loss;
means for limiting said gain to values below the smallest of said fourth and fifth
thresholds.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a low pass filter for
filtering said gain before application to said far-end speech signal.